

WEST HOLLYWOOD HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES – MAY 8, 2001
COMMUNITY CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. CALL TO ORDER

The West Hollywood Human Services Commission was called to order by Chair Teresa DeCrescenzo at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 8, 2001, in the Community Conference Room at City Hall, 8300 Santa Monica Boulevard, West Hollywood.

B. ROLL CALL

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated.

Present: Ruth Cislowski, John D’Amico, Steven Davis, Teresa DeCrescenzo, Dr. Bill Griffin, Peter Mackler, Shirley Roberts
Excused: none
Absent: none

A quorum was present at all times. Staff present included Lloyd R. Long, Director of Human Services; Daphne Dennis, Social Services Administrator; Bonnie Smith, Acting Recreation Services Administrator; Tom West, Social Services Program Specialist, and Jeff Book. Councilmember Steve Martin, Councilmember Sal Guarriello, and Council Deputy Donna Saur were present for part of the meeting.

Lloyd Long conveyed greetings from Curtis Brown, Jr., who has joined the City of Menlo Park, and introduced Bonnie Smith, who is serving as acting Recreation Services Administrator.

C. POSTING OF AGENDA

The Secretary reported that notices for the meeting had been posted as required.

D. PROCEDURE FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons desiring to address the meeting were asked to complete a request form. Without objection the agenda was amended to provide for public comment following organizational items.

II. MINUTES

Minutes of the March 13, 2001, meeting were approved on a motion by Commissioner D'Amico, seconded by Commissioner Mackler.

VII. ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC

Bill Gordon, a member of the Lesbian & Gay Advisory Board, spoke about their plans to honor people living in long-term same-gender relationships. They are planning the event and considering September as a possible date.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. PRESENTATION BY AID FOR AIDS

Terry Goddard of AFA said that since 1983 his agency has provided direct financial assistance to persons living with AIDS. Eighty-five percent of the budget is privately raised. They have initiated an emergency program to assist with utility bills. They also accept new clients by walk-in, without requiring a prior appointment.

Commissioner Davis asked about AFA's policy of closing for an hour and a half for lunch at a time when clients would like to have access to their services. Terry Goddard said the policy can be reviewed, and that the closed lunch period has been reduced to one hour. He said they do not want to leave the facility open with only one staff person present, because of the potential for incidents.

B. CSW UPDATE

Rodney Scott apologized for not having a CSW representative present at the last meeting, distributed a written report on the organization's mission statement, and discussed planning that is underway for the June festival.

He said the board, which had dwindled to five people, has grown to 16, and they are focusing on how to guarantee the organization's solvency. They have changed legal counsel, and hired a new CPA. The new CPA will review their fiscal policies.

He said CSW has met with many in the city to discuss ways to improve the annual event. They are creating a board of advisers, which will include, among others, Abbe Land, Troy Perry, Morris Kight, Hilary Selvin, Hope Hendricks, and Dr. Martin McCombs.

Although they hope to provide grants from event proceeds in the future, he said it was unlikely to occur this year. They are working to upgrade the quality of the parade and hope it will showcase variety and be more enjoyable.

Commissioner Davis noted that West Hollywood's name does not appear on the announcement, and Rodney agreed and said that this will be changed for the next cycle of publicity. He said the city will have a large booth with an excellent location this year, and that he is working with Bonnie Smith and Dan Laray on this.

Commissioners D'Amico and DeCrescenzo said that if CSW is going to provide grants, it should include it in the mission statement and make it a consistent practice, rather than varying it from year to year.

Rodney said they are planning to introduce a 'substance abuse free' zone, and have an expanded family suitability for the event.

He invited commissioners to be guests of CSW at the Long Beach pride event.

C. APLA UPDATE

Lorette Herman, director of client services, expressed appreciation for the city's many years of support for APLA. The city's contract for \$275,000 currently provides 1.7% of the group's budget. Fifteen percent of their client base is in West Hollywood.

She noted that more clients are being denied benefits these days, and need help with having applications reconsidered. She said persons living with AIDS continue to find it hard to find housing, because many landlords do not want to accept Section 8 vouchers.

APLA has relocated from its 1313 Vine Street location, a former television production facility which will become the new location for the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences' film archive. Client services are being provided from 611 S. Kingsley Dr., Los Angeles, with administrative services at 3550 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 300, and dental services at 1127 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1504.

She said APLA's strength is the integrated service model that use; its weakness is the number of people who receive information about APLA services but do not take advantage of them; their opportunity lies in their relocation; and the threat confronting them is the possibility of decreased federal assistance, decreased contributions, and "prevention fatigue."

D. PAWS/LA UPDATE

Steve Wayland of PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support) distributed their new brochure. He described their current operations, and noted that about half of their donors are annual supporters. He said one of their continuing problems is how to

deal with foster homes for pets in which the pet guardian loses interest in the pet, requiring the pet to be relocated.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. CONDOM DISTRIBUTION

Trip Mills of GLC WeHo Life provided the monthly list of condom distributions, showing a total of 48,400, and answered questions about which sites were working well and which needed further attention.

Commissioner Mackler asked for information about why some sites work well, and how this information can help make the program more successful at the other sites. Commissioners Mackler and Griffin spoke about honoring sites that have done well in the program, and Tom West noted this could be done in conjunction with World AIDS Day.

Commissioners and staff discussed ways to encourage additional sites to participate.

B. SOCIAL SERVICES REPORT

Daphne Dennis discussed the visioning process that will lead to determination of social services programs for the next budget cycle. Commissioners will review possible procedures and discuss the best way to gather information and make these determinations. Commissioner DeCrescenzo asked for this to be placed on the next agenda.

V. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

Peter Mackler attended the last meeting of the chairs, in which they reported on the business in front of their commissions and advisory boards.

VI. ITEMS FROM STAFF

There were no additional items.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Signed: 
Steven L. Davis

Attest:


